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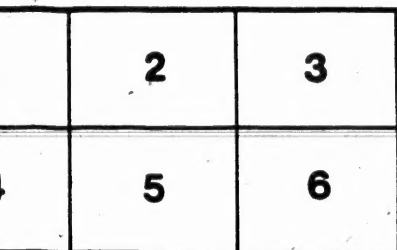
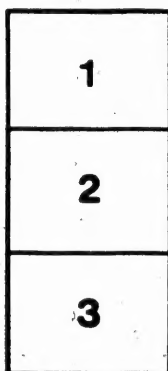
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METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

"Christ is the Head of the Church."—Eph. v. 23.

Ernest Morris Churchwarden.
Frederick Cowling

Admitted on Trial,

January

18 *99*

W. H. Kingston Congregational Minister.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY OF THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS.

1. In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley in London who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired (as did two or three more the next day) that he would spend some time with them in prayer and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That we might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together; which, from thenceforward, they did every week, viz., on Thursday, in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them, (for their number increased daily,) he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them; and they always concluded their meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

2. This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, first in Europe, and then in America. Such a Society is no other than "*a company of men having the form, and seeking the power, of godliness; united, in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.*"

3. That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each Society is divided into smaller companies, called Classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in every Class; one of whom is styled the *Leader*. It is his business,—

(1) To see each person in his Class once a week at least, in order

To inquire how their souls prosper;

To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require;

To receive what they are willing to give towards the support of the Gospel:

(2) To meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week in order

To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly and will not be reprov'd ;

To pay to the Stewards what they have received of their several Classes in the week preceding ; and

To show their account of what each person has contributed.

4. There is only one condition previously required in those who desire admission into these Societies, viz., "*a desire to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins.*" But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of all who continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

FIRST, By doing no harm, by avoiding evil in every kind ; especially that which is most generally practised. Such is

The taking the name of God in vain :

The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work thereon, or by buying or selling :

Drunkenness ; *buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity :*

Fighting, quarrelling, brawling ; brother going to law with brother ; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing ; the using many words in buying or selling :

The buying or selling uncustomed goods :

The giving or taking things on usury ; i.e., unlawful interest :

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation ; particularly speaking evil of

• *Magistrates or of Ministers :*

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us :

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God ; as,—

The putting on of gold or costly apparel ;

The taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the LORD JESUS ;

The singing those songs, or reading those books which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God ;

Softness, and needless self-indulgence ;

Laying up treasures upon earth ;

Borrowing without a probability of paying ; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

5. It is expected of all who continue in these Societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

SECONDLY, By doing good, by being in every kind merciful after their power ; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as is possible, to all men :

To their bodies, of the ability that God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison :

To their souls ; by instructing, *reproving* or exhorting all they have any intercourse with ; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine of devils, that "we are not to do good, unless *our heart be free to it.*"

By doing good especially to them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be ; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another, helping each other in business ; and so much the more, because the world will love its own, and them *only.*

By all possible *diligence* and *frugality*,
that the Gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race that is
set before them, *denying themselves*,
and taking up their cross daily; sub-
mitting to bear the reproach of Christ;
to be as the filth and offscouring of the
world; and looking that men should
say all manner of evil of them falsely,
for the Lord's sake.

6. It is expected of all who desire to
continue in these Societies, that they
should continue to evidence their desire
of salvation,

THIRDLY, By attending upon all the
ordinances of God: such are,—

The public worship of God;

The ministry of the word, either read or
expounded;

The Supper of the Lord;

Family and private prayer;

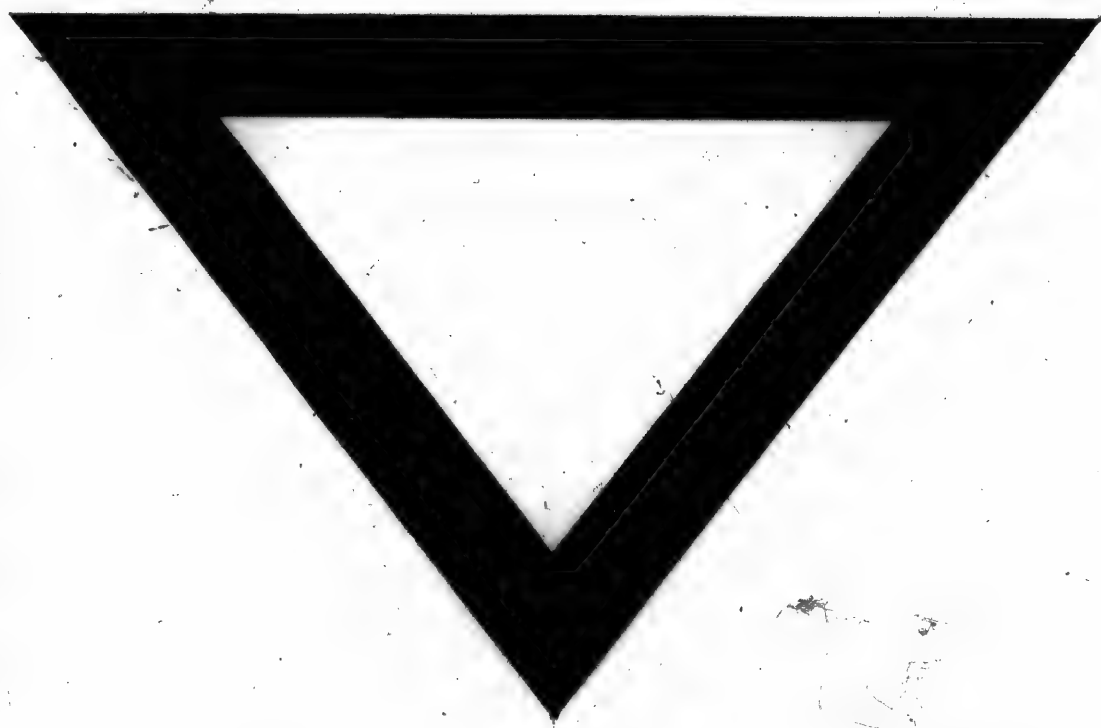
Searching the Scriptures; and

Fasting or abstinence.

7. These are the General Rules of our
Societies: all which we are taught of God

to observe, even in His written word, the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these we know His Spirit writes on every truly awakened heart. If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be made known unto them who watch over that soul, as they that must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways: we will bear with him for a season. But then if he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.





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